

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED © جميع حقوق الطبع محفوظة

No part of this book may be reproduced or utilized in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and recording or by any information storage and retrieval system, without the permission of the publisher.

First Edition: March 2000

Supervised by:
ABDUL MALIK MUJAHID



Head Office

DARUSSALAM

P.O. Box 22743, Riyadh 11416, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Tel: 00966-1-403 3962/404 3432 Fax: 00966-1-402 1659

E-mail: darussalam@naseej.com.sa

Branches

DARUSSALAM

50, Lower Mall, Lahore, Pakistan. Tel: 0092-42-724 0024/723 2400

Fax: 0092-42-735 4072

DARUSSALAM PUBLICATIONS

P.O. Box. 79194, Houston, TX 77279, USA. Tel: 001-713-722 0419

Fax: 001-713-722 0431

E-mail: sales@dar-us-salam.com Website: www.dar-us-salam.com

DARUSSALAM

572-Atlantic Ave, Brooklyn, New York 11217, USA. Tel: 001-718-625 5925

AL-HIDAAYAH PUBLISHING & DISTRIBUTION

522 Coventry Road, Birmingham, B10 0UN, UK. Tel: 0044-121-753 1889

Fax: 0044-121-753 2422

الدرة المختصرة في محاسن الدين الإسلامي

The Merits of ISLAM

By

Shaikh Abdur-Rahman

Ibn Nasir bin Sa'adi

Translated By

Sidheeque M. A. Veliankode

Edited by

Abu Khaliyl

DARUSSALAM

Publishers and Distributors

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia



*In the Name of Allâh,
the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful*

“Truly, the religion with Allâh is Islâm. Those who were given the Scripture (Jews and Christians) did not differ except, out of mutual jealousy, after knowledge had come to them. And whoever disbelieves in the *Ayât* (proofs, evidences, verses, etc.) of Allâh, then surely, Allâh is Swift in calling to account.”

(3:19)

Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| Publishers Note | 7 |
| Preface | 9 |
| Introduction..... | 12 |
| Merit: 1 | |
| The Foundation of Faith | 18 |
| Merit: 2 | |
| The Pillars of Islam..... | 20 |
| Merit: 3 | |
| The Importance of Unity..... | 23 |
| Merit: 4 | |
| The Religion of Kindness | 24 |
| Merit: 5 | |
| The Religion of Wisdom | 25 |
| Merit: 6 | |
| <i>Jihâd</i> and Commanding Good | 26 |
| Merit: 7 | |
| Just Business Law | 28 |
| Merit: 8 | |
| Encouraging the use of Good Things | 30 |
| Merit: 9 | |
| Preserving the Rights | 32 |
| Merit: 10 | |
| Wills and Inheritance | 33 |
| Merit: 11 | |
| Upholding Justice | 35 |
| Merit: 12 | |
| Protecting against Irresponsible Spending..... | 36 |
| Merit: 13 | |
| Ensuring Justice in Business Dealings | 37 |

| | |
|---|----|
| Merit: 14 | |
| Philanthropic Loans | 38 |
| Merit: 15 | |
| Protecting Property | 39 |
| Merit: 16 | |
| Consultation | 40 |
| Merit: 17 | |
| Prosperity in Mind and Body | 41 |
| Merit: 18 | |
| Unity of Ideals | 42 |
| Merit: 19 | |
| The Religion that is Compatible with Reason | 43 |
| Merit: 20 | |
| The Miraculous Spread of Islam | 44 |
| Merit: 20 | |
| The Comprehensiveness of this Religion | 47 |

In the Name of Allâh,
the Most Gracious, the Most merciful

Publishers Note

Praise be to Allâh, and peace and blessings be upon the Messenger of Allâh, his family, Companions, and those who follow him.

'*The Merits of Islam*' is a new publication of Darussalam that has been translated from the original work by Shaikh Abdur-Rahman bin Nasr As-Sa'adi (May Allah have mercy upon him). He was one of the most prominent and active scholars of Saudi Arabia. He had many admirers, and students, and his literary works and lectures are of great benefit to the Muslim world.

In this brief treatise, Shaikh As-Sa'adi brings to light some of the rationale proofs and arguments that affirm the benefits and truth of the Islamic religion. The author appeals to the Muslims, and non-Muslim in general, to use their intellect to ponder over the clear superiority and virtues of Islam over other false systems and ideologies.

Darussalam is concerned with the spread of literature that benefits the Muslims in affirming their beliefs, correcting their worship of their Lord, affirming the principles of religion, and establishing its implementation. It is a great honor that Darussalam has been blessed with the opportunity to present the works of such outstanding scholars as Shaikh As-Sa'adi to the English readers. In this way they are

exposed to the views and messages of the most brilliant minds of the Islamic world in our times.

We are also thankful to Mr. Sidheeque M.A. Vaeliankode and Mr. Abu Khaliyl for their cooperation and efforts in rendering this work into a clear and lucid style of English. We pray to Allâh that our English readers are pleased with the presentation of this noble work and we ask them to supplicate for the soul of the deceased Shaikh Abdur-Rahman As-Sa'adi. May Allâh's peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family and his Companions.

Abdul-Malik Mujahid
General Manager

In the Name of Allâh,
the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.

Preface

Praise be to Allâh, Who has guided us to Islam. If Allâh had not guided us, we could hardly have found the right path. I bear witness and testify that none has the right to be worshipped but Allâh, He is Alone and has no partner. This is a testimony by which we hope we will be saved on the Day we meet Him. I bear witness and testify that Muhammad is His servant and His Messenger, the one whom He has chosen and honored. May Allâh's peace and blessings be upon him and his family, his Companions and those who follow him.

Allâh has given His worshippers gifts in abundance. He removed the worst evils and harms from them. He ordered them to remain grateful to Him for these favors, and He warned them from wasting His favors in sin and disbelief. If they are grateful to Him, then they will receive more of the good, if not, then these blessings will disappear.

The blessing that Allâh granted to His believing worshippers is the blessing of the guidance to the religion of Islam, a favor which most of the members of humanity have rejected. Leaving themselves trapped in a suppressed and miserable life, a life filled with anxiety and worry in their spare time because of their loneliness.

Allâh the Almighty says:

﴿إِنْ هُمْ إِلَّا كَالْأَنْعَامِ بَلْ هُمْ أَضَلُّ سَبِيلًا﴾ [الفرقان: ٤٤]

“They are only like cattle — but, they are even farther astray from the way.” (25:44)

During the first generation, the Muslims realized the blessing of Islam, and its basic principles and ideas that assure complete happiness. For these reasons they believed in it and had faith in it, and as they were humbling themselves, their lands and authority grew ever larger. Because of their faith Allāh made them strong in the earth, making its kings and tyrants submit to their power. They were granted power and administration over the lands. Then, they began to become weaker in Islam, in its beliefs and practices, ignoring one thing after another, until our time in which people, as never seen before, are turning away from religion. It is related on the authority of the Leader of the faithful ‘Umar رضى الله عنه saying:

“The grip of Islam would be broken, handle by handle, when Islam becomes filled with people who are not aware of the period of ignorance.”

This urges the Muslim to familiarize himself with the ignorance of the people before Islam, and all the ideas they held, secularly and religiously.

It is also encourages one to look into the merits of Islam, the natural religion, and the ease and practicability by which it is distinguished, the beneficial conduct that it invites to, and the foolish behavior it forbids, raising its children upon faithful dealings with themselves and their Lord, their families and neighbors.

So, when the Muslim thinks about these values, and morals that Islam invites its followers to adhere to, and he compares this and the state of people before Islam, then he knows that it is the correct religion. Then he will be driven to it by all of his senses, hastening to follow its path, and giving himself, his wealth, and his family in its aid and protection.

The scholars have produced extremely important writings about the advantages of this religion, explaining its virtues and merits. One of the most comprehensive and beneficial works that I have seen on this subject is the booklet of the great scholar Shaikh Abdur-Rahman bin Nasir bin Sa‘adi. It is a booklet of great importance (in a small size) on the merits of the Islamic religion, with simple, clear and comprehensive lessons.

This booklet would be a good topic for Friday sermons and other gatherings where more people can benefit from it, and more results can be produced from it. With Allāh is the guidance to the right way. May Allāh’s peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family, and his Companions.

Abdussalam bin Barjis bin Nasir Aal Abdul-Karim
Riyadh, 6/7/1409H

In the Name of Allâh,
the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.

Introduction

All praise be due to Allâh. We praise Him, and seek His help. We beg His forgiveness and we repent to Him. We seek refuge with Allâh from the evils of our own souls and our corrupt actions. If Allâh guides anyone, none can cause him to stray, and if He causes anyone to stray, none can guide him to the right path. I bear witness and testify that none has the right to be worshipped but Allâh. He is Alone and has no partners, and I testify that Muhammad ﷺ is His servant and His Messenger.

Verily, the religion of Islam which the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ came with, is the best and most complete religion. Its merits, excellence, mercy, and justice are testimony to the absolute perfection, wisdom and knowledge of Allâh. It also testifies to His Prophet Muhammad ﷺ that he is the true Messenger of Allâh and His real spokesman for the Truth. The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ does not speak out of his own desire.

﴿وَمَا يَنْطِقُ عَنِ الْهَوَىٰ ۖ إِنْ هُوَ إِلَّا وَحْيٌ يُوحَىٰ﴾ [النجم: ٤٣]

“Nor does he speak of (his own) desire. It is only a Revelation that revealed (from Allâh).”
(53:3,4)

He also said:

﴿وَإِذَا تُتْلَىٰ عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتُنَا بَيِّنَاتٍ قَالَ الَّذِينَ لَا يَرْجُونَ لِقَاءَنَا آتِنَا بِشَرِّ مَا بَدَّلْنَا أَوْ بَدِّلْهُ قُلْ مَا يَكُونُ لِي أَنْ أُبَدِّلَهُ مِنْ تِلْقَائِي نَفْسِي ۚ إِنْ أَتَيْتُ إِلَّا مَا يُوحَىٰ إِلَيَّ ۚ إِنِّي أَخَافُ إِنْ عَصَيْتُ رَبِّي عَذَابَ يَوْمٍ عَظِيمٍ﴾
[يونس: ١٥]

“And when Our clear Verses are recited unto them, those who hope not for their Meeting with Us, say: “Bring us a Qur’ân other than this, or change it.” Say (O Muhammad ﷺ): “It is not for me to change it on my own accord; I only follow that which is revealed unto me. Verily, I fear the torment of the Great Day (i.e. the Day of Resurrection) if I were to disobey my Lord.”
(10:15)

Further more He said:

﴿فَمَا يُوحَىٰ إِلَيَّ رَبِّي إِنَّهُ سَمِيعٌ قَرِيبٌ﴾ [سبأ: ٥٠]

It is because of the Revelation of my Lord to me. Truly, He is All-Hearer, Ever Near (to all things).” (34:50)

The religion of Islam is the greatest proof and best testimony to Allâh’s Unique and Absolute Perfection, and to His Prophet ﷺ, to his Messengership and his truthfulness.

By this booklet, I intend to demonstrate, as much as my knowledge will allow, the clarity of the basic merits of this great religion. My knowledge and understanding is not sufficient to completely explain some of the merits of this religion, and my choice of words may lack what is required to best explain them.

The Foundation of Faith

The religion of Islam is built on the principles of the Faith as mentioned in the Statement of Allâh:

﴿ قُولُوا ءَامَنَّا بِاللَّهِ وَمَا أُنْزِلَ إِلَيْنَا وَمَا أُنْزِلَ إِلَىٰ إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَإِسْمَاعِيلَ وَإِسْحَاقَ وَيَعْقُوبَ وَالْأَسْبَاطِ وَمَا أُوتِيَ مُوسَىٰ وَعِيسَىٰ وَمَا أُوتِيَ النَّبِيُّونَ مِن رَّبِّهِمْ لَا نُفَرِّقُ بَيْنَ أَحَدٍ مِّنْهُمْ وَنَحْنُ لَهُ مُسْلِمُونَ ﴾

[البقرة: ١٣٦]

“Say: We believe in Allâh and in what has been revealed to us, and what was sent down to Ibrahim (Abraham), Isma‘il (Ishmael), Ishaq (Isaac), Ya‘qub (Jacob) and the offspring of the twelve sons of Ya‘qub (Jacob) and what was given to Musa (Moses), ‘Isa (Jesus) and the Prophets from their Lord. We make no distinction between one another among them and to Him (Allâh) we have submitted.” (2:136)

These most important fundamentals which Allâh has commanded for His servants, are the same fundamentals brought by all of the Prophets and Messengers. They consist of the most important ideas and beliefs which result from the faith in all that Allâh described Himself with upon the tongue of His Messengers, and striving to do what pleases Allâh.

The root of the religion is the belief in Allâh. Its fruit is hastening to do all that Allâh loves and is pleased with, doing so sincerely for Him Alone. Is it possible

to imagine that any religion could be better than this?

This religion commands having faith in all of what the Prophets brought, trusting their messages, acknowledging the truth of what they came with from their Lord, not making distinctions between them in that, and that all of them are truthful Messengers of Allâh, sincerely faithful to Him. Therefore, it is impossible to have any suspicion or objection towards this religion.

It commands every truth and recognizes every fact, its religious realities are determined by what Allâh revealed to His Messengers, which are all in accordance with realities that are reasonable, natural, and beneficial. It neither rejects any truths in any way, nor confirms any lies, nor propagates any falsehood. Therefore, it stands out as the most believable over all of the other religions.

It orders good deeds and noble character, as well as the welfare of humanity. Islam encourages justice, virtue, mercy and generosity. It prevents injustice, oppression and all traits that spoil morality. There is not one thing that the Prophets and Messengers approved of but Islam affirms it; there is not one thing beneficial (religiously or in the matters of life) which their legislative systems invited to, except that Islam stresses its importance, nor is there anything harmful except that it prohibits it or orders that it be avoided.

In summary, the beliefs of this religion are those that purify the hearts, strengthen the spirits, and result in the most honorable manners and good deeds.

Merit: 4

The Religion of Kindness

Islam is the religion of mercy, blessing and benevolence. It encourages all categories of human benefit.

Consider the mercy, fair dealing practices, the invitation to be kind, and the prohibition from all that contradicts this. These are the shining lights that distinguish the aggression of the oppressor and the tyrant, and the evil and unlawful dealings.

This is what attracted the hearts of those who were mortal enemies before knowing Islam, when they sought the shelter of the shade of Islam.

It is the religion that fills its people with gentleness, until mercy, forgiveness and kindness flow from their hearts to their sayings and actions, and upon reaching their enemies — turning them into their greatest allies. Among them are those who entered Islam out of pure zeal and passion, among them are those who submitted to it because of the wisdom of its laws and the honor they give to its people, and same because of the equity and mercy that they witnessed.



Merit: 5

The Religion of Wisdom

Islam is a religion of wisdom, it is a natural religion, a religion of reason and benefit.

To make this clear, look at its rules, both at the fundamental and branch level, these are obviously correct and the truth, acceptable to reason and instinct, all of the rules of its system are the best, providing benefit for every time and place.

All that it mentions is true and believable, there is nothing, nor could there be anything (in the past or the future) to contradict it or falsify it. It is but the science of truth, all of it. This is one of the greatest proofs of its credibility.

Researchers and authors have verified that for every type of beneficial knowledge; be it religious, worldly, or political, the Qur'ân and the *Sunnah* has presented irrefutable arguments for it. There is nothing irrational involved in the Islamic *Shari'ah*, only what pure reason proves the truth and benefit of.

Its commandments and prohibitions are full of justice, with no oppression. It commands only pure goodness, and it only prohibits evil, or the harm that outweighs the benefits. The more an intellectual contemplates about its laws, the more his faith will be increased because of knowing this and that it is revealed from Allâh, the Wise and Praised.

religion; despite the fact that its enemies collaborate for its total extermination. This is the true religion of Allâh. If the necessary strength was assembled to repel the aggressors and their injustice, then no religion other than Islam would remain on the earth, and all of its inhabitants would accept it without compulsion or coercion, because it is the religion of truth, the natural religion, the religion of unity and social welfare. But its people are negligent, weak and disunited, and they are impeded by the influence of their enemies, preventing them from advancing. There is no might nor ability except from Allâh.



Merit: 21

The Comprehensiveness of this Religion

Islam is based on correct, beneficial beliefs, and honorable conduct which strengthens the spirit and the mind, and works that bring benefit, proofs for its fundamentals as well as its teachings. Islam is built upon rejection of all idolatry and dependence upon creatures, and practicing all of the religion for Allâh, the Lord of the worlds Alone, and upon the rejection of all senseless myths and superstitions that contradict rationale. Islam is based upon absolute benefit, and upon repelling every evil and falsehood, and upon justice, removing every type of wrong.

These are points that have many details which should be learned by those who are not familiar with them.

Here we conclude our brief discussion of some comprising fundamentals and principles by which the perfection and greatness of Islam may be recognized, demonstrating that it is the means of attaining real goodness with all things. And with Allâh is the facilitation to what is right. Allâh's peace and blessings be upon the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, his family and his Companions.

